

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A measuring tape comprising:

5 a housing having an exterior surface and at least two spaced apart inwardly facing side wall surfaces defining a hollow interior of said housing;

an elongate flexible blade having a free end and a terminal end, the free end adapted to extend out of said housing;

10 a spool mounted for rotation about a first axis within the hollow interior of said housing, the terminal end of said blade being secured to said spool to enable said blade to be helically stored thereon;

15 a first sheave mounted coaxially of the first axis to effect rotation of said spool about the first axis;

20 a spiral spring assembly mounted about a second axis within the hollow interior of said housing spaced from and generally parallel with the first axis of said spool;

a second sheave mounted coaxially of the second axis to effect rotation of said spring assembly; and

25 means for transmitting rotational movement of said first sheave to said second sheave.

2. A measuring tape as defined in Claim 1 wherein the side walls of said housing are generally planar.

30 3. A measuring tape as defined in Claim 2 wherein said side walls are substantially flat.

4. A measuring tape as defined in Claim 1 including distance measuring indicia is imprinted on said elongate flexible blade.

5 5. A measuring tape as defined in Claim 1 wherein said means for transmitting rotation of said first sheave to said second sheave consists of a flexible belt.

10 6. A measuring tape as defined in Claim 1 wherein said spring assembly includes a spring, a bias of which increases in proportion to the extent of said flexible blade caused to be payed off of said spool.

15 7. A measuring tape as defined in Claim 1 including hand and finger contoured pads secured to the exterior surface of said housing.

20 8. A measuring tape as defined in Claim 1 wherein the free end of said elongate blade includes a bracket which militates against the passage of the free end into said housing.